

Unit 1

Conjugation of Regular Verbs

Conjugation of Regular -ar Verbs

All English verbs in their infinitive form are preceded by the word "to": to speak, to work, to study, etc. All Spanish verbs in their infinitive form end either in **-ar**, **-er**, or **-ir**. In this section we are going to deal with regular **-ar** verbs.

The term *conjugation*, in grammatical study, refers to the change the verb makes in order to accommodate the subject of the sentence. In English not a lot of conjugation goes on: I *spea*k; you *spea*k; he *spea*ks; she *spea*ks; we *spea*k; they *spea*k. Only the third person, singular, makes the change in most English verbs (present tense), taking on the letter "s."

When conjugating regular **-ar** verbs, there are six different verb endings that correspond to the six boxes in the Subject Pronoun chart.

Simple Sentence Construction

The minimum you need to create a sentence are a subject (someone or something doing something) and a verb (that which is being done). The following recipe is all you need in order to create simple sentences in Spanish:

Subject Pronoun + Verb Base + Verb Ending

1. Subject pronouns are listed on the previous page.
2. The verb base (or stem) is attained by stripping the infinitive of its **-ar** ending.

example: to sing = **cantar**: remove the **-ar**, and you have **cant**, the verb base.

3. The ending is what you attach directly to the verb base. The six **-ar** endings are listed below and correspond to the Subject Pronoun chart.

| Regular -ar Endings | | | |
|---------------------|----|----------|------|
| yo | o | nosotros | amos |
| | | nosotras | amos |
| tú | as | vosotros | áis |
| | | vosotras | áis |
| él | a | ellos | an |
| ella | a | ellas | an |
| usted | a | ustedes | an |

Note: The abbreviation for **usted** is **Ud.**, and for **ustedes** it is **Uds.** Both are commonly used in writing and always are capitalized.

You are now ready to create simple sentences.

Following the recipe, **Subject + Verb Base + Verb Ending**, you first need to select a subject. We will use **yo** (I). Next, choose a verb. We will use **hablar** (to speak). Take off the **-ar**, and you have the verb base, **habl**. Finally, select the ending that goes with your subject: As we are using **yo**, that ending must be **o**.

^{Stem}
 Subject + Verb Base + Verb Ending

yo habl o = yo hablo (I speak)

This is all you need to do in order to conjugate a verb and to create a simple sentence. Below is the completely conjugated verb **hablar**:

yo hablo (I speak)

nosotros hablamos (we speak—masc./masc. & fem.)

nosotras hablamos (we speak—fem.)

tú hablas (you speak)

vosotros habláis (you all speak—masc./masc. & fem.)

vosotras habláis (you all speak—fem.)

él habla (he speaks)

ellos hablan (they speak—masc./masc. & fem.)

ella habla (she speaks)

ellas hablan (they speak—fem.)

Ud. habla (you speak)

Uds. hablan (you all speak)

Listed below are several regular **-ar** verbs. This list is followed by exercises in which you can practice conjugating the verbs and creating simple sentences.

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| amar | to love | hablar | to speak, talk |
| andar | to walk | llegar | to arrive |
| bailar | to dance | llevar | to wear, carry |
| buscar | to look for, search for | mirar | to watch, look at |
| cantar | to sing | pagar | to pay (for) |
| comprar | to buy | practicar | to practice |
| entrar (en) | to enter (into) | preparar | to prepare |
| escuchar | to listen (to) | tocar | to touch, play (an instrument) |
| esperar | to hope, wait (for) | tomar | to take |
| estudiar | to study | trabajar | to work |

Note: Some Spanish verbs inherently contain prepositions that we must add to the English equivalent, e.g., **escuchar** (to listen *to*): **yo escucho la radio** = I *listen to* the radio.

ejercicio

I-I-I

Traduce las siguientes frases:

1. I sing. _____
2. You sing. _____
3. He sings. _____
4. We sing. _____
5. They (m.) sing. _____
6. I pay. _____
7. I pay for the house. _____
8. You pay. _____
9. They (f.) pay. _____
10. She studies. _____
11. He studies. _____
12. I study. _____
13. We study. _____
14. You walk. _____
15. We walk. _____
16. I work. _____
17. He works. _____
18. They work. _____
19. We work. _____
20. He dances. _____

21. I love. _____
22. You love. _____
23. She loves. _____
24. We love. _____
25. They love. _____
26. I practice. _____
27. He practices. _____
28. They enter. _____
29. I watch the house. _____
30. I look at the garden. _____
31. They watch the car. _____
32. She listens. _____
33. They (f.) listen. _____
34. I listen. _____
35. He buys the car. _____
36. I buy the dog. _____
37. You buy the house. _____
38. I speak with Miguel. _____
39. She pays for the books. _____
40. We study Spanish. _____

¿Cuál es verdadero o falso para ti?

(Which is true or false for you?) Escribe la respuesta—una V o una F—en el espacio en blanco.

- | | |
|--|--|
| _____ 1. Yo hablo inglés. | _____ 7. Yo compro la ropa en Sears. |
| _____ 2. Yo trabajo en un banco. | _____ 8. Yo miro la televisión en el dormitorio. |
| _____ 3. Yo estudio español en la escuela. | _____ 9. Yo preparo café en la mañana. |
| _____ 4. Yo canto muy bien. | _____ 10. Mi amigo/a habla español. |
| _____ 5. Yo bailo muy bien. | _____ 11. Mi amigo/a trabaja en una tienda. |
| _____ 6. Yo toco el piano. | _____ 12. Mi amigo/a toca la guitarra. |

Making a sentence negative: To make an affirmative sentence negative, simply add *no* directly before the verb.

examples:

Yo no hablo portugués.
I don't speak Portuguese.

Nosotros no trabajamos aquí.
We don't work here.

Tú no escuchas la radio.
You don't listen to the radio.

Vosotros no estudiáis francés.
You (pl. fam.) don't study French.

Él no canta con el coro.
He doesn't sing with the choir.

Ellos no esperan el autobús.
They don't wait for the bus.

¿Cuál es verdadero o falso para ti?

- | | |
|---|---|
| _____ 1. Yo no estudio italiano. | _____ 7. Mis amigos y yo no estudiamos español. |
| _____ 2. Yo no toco el trombón. | _____ 8. Mis amigos y yo no miramos la televisión. |
| _____ 3. Yo no ando a la escuela. | _____ 9. Mi mejor (<i>best</i>) amigo/a no trabaja en un restaurante. |
| _____ 4. Yo no llevo uniforme a la escuela. | _____ 10. Mi mejor amigo/a no toca el violín. |
| _____ 5. Yo no hablo con mis amigos por teléfono. | |
| _____ 6. Yo no canto en la iglesia. | |

Conjugation of Regular -er Verbs

To conjugate regular *-er* verbs, you will follow the same rules set out in the previous section on the conjugation of regular *-ar* verbs. The only difference is in the endings, which are shown at the top of the next page.

| Regular -er Endings | | | |
|---------------------|----|----------------------|--------------|
| yo | o | nosotros nosotras | emos emos |
| tú | es | vosotros vosotras | éis éis |
| él | e | ellos | en |
| ella | e | ellas | en |
| usted | e | ustedes | en |

Below is the conjugated verb **comer** (to eat):

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| yo como | nosotros comemos nosotras comemos |
| tú comes | vosotros coméis vosotras coméis |
| él come ella come usted come | ellos comen ellas comen ustedes comen |

Listed below are several regular -er verbs, followed by exercises which use them.

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------|
| aprender | to learn | deber | to owe |
| beber | to drink | leer | to read |
| comer | to eat | meter (en) | to put (into) |
| cometer (un error) | to make (a mistake) | poseer | to possess, own |
| comprender | to understand | romper | to break |
| correr | to run | temer | to fear, dread |
| creer | to believe | vender | to sell |

ejercicio

I-I-2

- I learn. _____
- I drink. _____
- He drinks. _____
- You eat. _____
- We eat. _____
- I understand. _____
- I don't understand. _____
- They understand. _____

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 9. You understand. _____ | 25. We read. _____ |
| 10. You don't understand. _____ | 26. I make a mistake. _____ |
| 11. I run. _____ | 27. I put. _____ |
| 12. You run. _____ | 28. You put. _____ |
| 13. She runs. _____ | 29. He puts. _____ |
| 14. They don't run. _____ | 30. We put. _____ |
| 15. We run. _____ | 31. They (m.) put. _____ |
| 16. I believe. _____ | 32. They (f.) put. _____ |
| 17. I don't believe. _____ | 33. We break. _____ |
| 18. He believes. _____ | 34. They (f.) break. _____ |
| 19. We owe. _____ | 35. I break. _____ |
| 20. I read. _____ | 36. You sell. _____ |
| 21. You read. _____ | 37. We sell. _____ |
| 22. You don't read. _____ | 38. I don't sell. _____ |
| 23. He reads. _____ | 39. She doesn't sell. _____ |
| 24. She reads. _____ | 40. We learn. _____ |

¿Cuál es verdadero o falso para ti?

Note that when the subject is understood via the verb conjugation, for example, *Como* = *I eat*, the subject pronoun is not necessary.

- _____ 1. Como mucho en McDonald's.
- _____ 2. Bebo leche cada día.
- _____ 3. No comprendo francés.
- _____ 4. Leo los libros de Agatha Christie.
- _____ 5. Aprendo mucho en mi clase de español.
- _____ 6. Sears vende ropa.
- _____ 7. La biblioteca vende libros.
- _____ 8. Corro en el maratón.

- _____ 9. A veces (*at times*) cometo errores.
- _____ 10. Normalmente, el gato bebe leche.
- _____ 11. Creo en fantasmas.
- _____ 12. Muchas personas en los Estados Unidos comprenden español.

Conjugation of Regular **-ir** Verbs

This is the final set of regular verbs. To conjugate regular **-ir** verbs, follow the same rules of conjugation as set forth in Unit 1 (page 5). Note that the endings, which are listed below, are the same as those for **-er** verbs except in the **nosotros** and **vosotros** boxes.

| Regular -ir Endings | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| yo | o | nosotros nosotras | imos imos |
| tú | es | vosotros vosotras | ís ís |
| él ella usted | e e e | ellos ellas ustedes | en en en |

Below is the conjugated verb **vivir** (to live):

| | |
|------------|------------------|
| yo vivo | nosotros vivimos |
| | nosotras vivimos |
| tú vives | vosotros vivís |
| | vosotras vivís |
| él vive | ellos viven |
| ella vive | ellas viven |
| usted vive | ustedes viven |

Listed below are several regular **-ir** verbs, followed by exercises using them.

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------|-----------------|
| abrir | to open | escribir | to write |
| admitir | to admit | existir | to exist |
| asistir (a) | to attend | permitir | to permit |
| cubrir | to cover | recibir | to receive |
| decidir | to decide | subir | to climb, go up |
| describir | to describe | sufrir | to suffer |
| descubrir | to discover | unir | to unite |
| discutir | to discuss | vivir | to live |

ejercicio**I-I-3**

1. I open the windows. _____
2. She suffers a lot. _____
3. We live in the United States. _____
4. You write a lot of letters. _____
5. The child admits everything (*todo*). _____
6. John climbs the staircase (*la escalera*). _____
7. I discover a cat in the house. _____
8. Many people suffer. _____
9. We decide. _____
10. Unicorns (*los unicornios*) don't exist. _____
11. You (*pl. form.*) write well. _____
12. Mary describes the spiders (*las arañas*). _____
13. We write many letters. _____
14. They don't attend school. _____
15. Mary and John discuss the book. _____
16. You unite the two parts (*las partes*). _____
17. The boys describe everything. _____
18. You (*pl. fam.*) cover the tables. _____
19. John doesn't attend the meeting (*la reunión*). _____
20. I receive gifts (*regalos*) for my birthday. _____

¿Cuál es verdadero o falso para ti?

- _____ 1. Vivo en un apartamento.
- _____ 2. Escribo mucho en mi clase de español.
- _____ 3. Stephen King escribe libros de horror.
- _____ 4. Recibo regalos en diciembre.